

Chollas Creek

Environmental Improvement & Awareness Programs



Summary of February 28, 2005 Community Meeting

The City of San Diego presented the draft conceptual plans for the Chollas Creek Restoration Project at the February 28, 2005 meeting of the Jacobs Foundation's Coalition of Neighborhood Councils (CNC). Drew Kleis, project manager for the City's Storm Water Pollution Prevention Division, presented the project team (Mike Cairns, project engineer, Scott Molentin, landscape architect, Javier Guerrero, artwork & signage, and Michael Scahill, education project manager), and provided a brief overview of the project, including presentation of the draft conceptual landscape plan. To view a PDF of the draft conceptual landscape plan, please visit the project's website at <http://www.thinkbluesd.org/Chollas/> (the information is expected to be available on the website in April 2005).

Drew also summarized comments received from the community regarding the project's design during two previous public meetings in August and September 2004. The community's primary design issues were:

- *Create a linear park connected to the community*
- *Create a sense of place (natural, park-like)*
- *Plant large trees for aesthetics & shade*
- *Install artwork/signage that:*
 - *Recognizes important community members*
 - *Recognizes Native American cultures*
 - *Includes environmental education*
 - *Is weather & vandalism resistant*
- *Design "soft" trails with a nature walk theme*
- *Avoid unsightly fences; wood or natural looking fences OK*

Storm Water Pollution Prevention Program

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Drew and the project team then summarized how the conceptual plans have addressed these design issues. Drew pointed out how the conceptual plans include a decomposed granite (sand) trail connecting the proposed creek restoration area to Euclid Avenue, and park benches shaded by large native trees along the trail. Drew also discussed how a low, natural looking fence has been included on the edge of the trail to reduce potential for the public injuring themselves on the creek slope, and to keep pedestrian traffic from trampling the proposed native landscaping. Javier Guerrero, as the interpretive signage designer for the project, also discussed how the interpretive signage will relate to surrounding artwork in the community, and include information relating to local cultures. Javier also stated that the signage will include educational information on how the creek functions in protecting and improving water quality.

After the presentation, Drew opened up the discussion to the group and asked for comments/questions. A summary of the input received from the community is provided below.

Questions:

- *Who will pay for the long-term maintenance of the creek?* The Jacobs Foundation has agreed in principle to maintain the landscaping and trail along the creek. The City of San Diego would be responsible for maintaining the bottom of the creek channel.

Comments:

- *Fences should be durable; don't use wood that will rot. Concrete posts are preferred.*
- *Install exercise stations along the trail.*
- *Revegetate with native plants only.*
- *Attempt to include local contractors and workers in the construction.*
- *Explore community service opportunities for students to volunteer.*

The City will consider these comments during the remaining stages of the project's design. The City is scheduled to present the final draft project to the community in the summer of 2005. In the meantime, community members are encouraged to contact Drew with any questions, and stay up to date on the project by visiting the Think Blue website (<http://www.thinkbluesd.org/Chollas/>).